



Priorities for the 2004 Legislature and a new year

Rep. Dan Roach, R-Bonney Lake
31st Legislative District

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For more information
and specifics about
the issues
addressed here, I
encourage you to
visit my Web page:

[http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/
members/roach](http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/roach)

UPCOMING TOWN HALLS:

- **Auburn/Pacific** –
February 21 at the
Auburn Public Library,
1102 Auburn Way South,
1-2 p.m.
- **Enumclaw/Buckley/
S. Prairie/Wilkeson/
Greenwater** –
February 21 at the
Enumclaw Public Library,
1700 First Street,
10:30-11:30 a.m.
- **Sumner/Edgewood/
Bonney Lake** –
February 21 at the
Sumner Public Library,
1116 Fryar Avenue,
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Dear friends and neighbors,

Back in Olympia and ready to tackle the challenges before us in the 2004 legislative session, I relish the opportunity to make a difference in our state for you and your family. I enjoy meeting with so many of you and receiving feedback critical to my work here on your behalf.

Please continue to share your thoughts, concerns and questions. With local priorities in mind, I strive to work in cooperation with fellow lawmakers to strengthen our families and the economy, and support our most pressing needs including public safety, education and health care.

While gains were made last session, more work must be done to preserve and create jobs and put Washington back on track to economic prosperity.

Don't hesitate to call on me. My job is to serve you, as well as represent you. I look forward to your letters, e-mails and calls!

Sincerely,


Dan Roach

State Representative

Working to continue the positive momentum

In 2004, I'm working with fellow lawmakers to create a business climate that grows the economy and makes Washington more competitive for attracting and keeping family wage jobs in our communities. Last session, we passed a no-new-tax operating budget to help the neediest in our communities and create a more competitive economic climate.

Boeing's decision to build its 7E7 in Washington is a good sign we're on the right track. We must continue to be fiscally responsible – while we protect families and position our state for an economic recovery – by enacting a supplemental budget that is sustainable and doesn't raise taxes or cut core programs.



Reforms to provide jobs and prosperity for families

To support job providers and create new employment opportunities for more people in Washington, the Legislature must:

- Reform the workers' compensation program and follow on the good work started last session to find new and better ways of implementing it.
- Make significant adjustments to the minimum wage.
- Lift the regulatory burden by demanding more accountability in the rule-making process by our state agencies, and improve the public's trust and give local government, job providers and citizens more control.
- Renew and extend tax incentives for high-tech research and development and rural communities to help encourage investment in Washington and create jobs.

Jobs, affordable homes and good doctors depend on it

We must improve our civil justice system. It's the most expensive in the world. In many cases, large jury awards and settlements cause insurance premiums for doctors and employers to skyrocket. Injured people don't always win because lawyers take too much of the money awarded to them. We must create a fair, predictable and timely legal process and I support sensible and long-overdue reforms. "Liability reform," as it's called, will help create jobs, promote better economic times and rebuild trust. Many across Washington support it including doctors, small businesses, architects, engineers, homebuilders and nursing homes. Reasonable reforms won't take away an injured party's right to seek legal action — but simply ask that settlements are fair and balanced.



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Education on the forefront

The students in our K-12 education system represent the hopes and dreams of our future. We must strengthen our schools and provide our students with a world-class education.

To accomplish this we need to improve the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) by allowing for retesting, and ensure that we have effective teachers in every classroom by recruiting, retaining and rewarding quality teachers.

It will also be important for the Legislature to keep teacher strikes from taking an unnecessarily heavy toll on our children and their families.



Health care solutions at hand

Health care costs are skyrocketing and while the vast majority of people have health care coverage, the cost of that coverage is creating a crisis. Washington families, especially in rural areas, are losing access to health care services. Escalating medical malpractice premiums are forcing doctors to leave Washington and stop delivering babies. The Legislature can be part of the solution to this crisis by:

- Removing government mandates and giving employers greater flexibility to offer working families affordable basic health coverage.
- Enacting liability reforms to control the escalating cost of doctors’ malpractice insurance.

We won’t surrender our communities to sex offenders, car thieves and drug manufacturers

It’s time to impose stronger penalties for the manufacturing of methamphetamine and put an end to this growing threat to our communities’ safety and the environment. We need to keep sex offenders out of our neighborhoods and in prison by increasing punishment for those who prey on children, beginning with the first offense. It’s also time to create a real deterrent for those who steal cars with little in the way of repercussion. My priorities for ensuring public safety this session include:

- Cracking down on meth manufacturing and making it a strike under the state’s “Three Strikes” law.
- Increasing penalties for sex offenders.
- Creating a stronger deterrent for auto theft to safeguard your family’s second greatest investment—next to your home—and keep auto insurance rates reasonable.

Working to make state government more accessible and efficient for you

As your state representative, I’m committed to making state government more accessible and accountable. It should help bring about positive change—not hinder your success and prosperity. Fiscal responsibility is first and foremost in my mind as I continue to serve you in Olympia in the 2004 legislative session. We must take a responsible approach to deciding what state government is in a position to do for citizens by evaluating government’s top priorities, examining where and how efficiently our tax dollars are being spent, and supporting key programs with existing resources.

Keep in touch...I want to hear from you

Because we are entering an election year, the law allows me to send you only two House-sponsored mailings between now and next November. We can, however, continue our communication and correspond with constituents who contact us with questions or requests for information regarding specific issues.

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